

REMARKS

In this preliminary amendment to the present application, the Applicant has added new independent claim 31. Claims 16 – 30 were pending in the application. As a result of the present amendment, claims 16 – 31 are pending in the present application. The Applicant respectfully requests further examination of the application in light of the accompanying remarks.

The Applicant has added independent claim 31, a method claim describing the limitation of a tear-off strip being attached while a package sleeve is located in the region of a pocket of a pocket conveyor. In the previous Office Action (mailed June 6, 2003), the Examiner characterized the phrase, “the region of a pocket,” as vague and indefinite. In this preliminary amendment to the patent application, claim 31 has been added to more clearly describe the limitation containing the pocket. As can be seen in **Fig. 5** of the present application, an example embodiment showing a package sleeve in the pocket of a pocket conveyor wherein a tear-off strip is attached with the help of an anvil is shown where elements **8a** and **15** are indicated. In this respect, the Applicant kindly asserts that the use of the pocket limitation as it appears in claim 31 is fully disclosed in the present application and is clearly described in this newly added claim.

CONCLUSION

Independent claim 31 has been newly added in the present amendment. As a result of the present amendment, claims 16 - 31 are pending in the present

application. The Applicant respectfully requests further examination of the application in light of the accompanying remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

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